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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AN: DB00391-0974

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 PM-07 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
CODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11, 7063
-----119180 170702Z DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MLR **

P 130445Z AUG 80

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2810
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

REVIEWED BY John Kelly DATE 8/14/89
() MESSAGE () DECLASSIFY
() EXEMPT () DECLASSIFY in PART
() EXEMPT () Non-responsive info.
FOI EO 12958 exemptions

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

TS authority to:
() CLASSIFY as _____ OADR
() DECLASSIFY to () S or () C, OADR

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO KARACHI, PESHAWAR AUG. 11
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/11/86 (PEPPER, R.) OR-1

TAGS: 08, 5, PG8V, PJ AF

SUBJECT: DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER'S NEGATIVE IMPRESSIONS OF
AFGHAN RESISTANCE

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. AN INDEPENDENT PAKISTANI FILM MAKER FIZAL-JI-HAQ QURESHI,
APPLIED FOR A VISA HERE AUGUST 7 TO VISIT CBS NEWS IN NEW YORK

AND NEGOTIATE THE BROADCAST OF A DOCUMENTARY ON THE AFGHAN
MUJAHIDEEN. QURESHI HAD JUST SPENT A MONTH AND A HALF FILM-
ING THE GUERRILLAS OF THE NATIONAL ISLAMIC ALLIANCE FRONT.

3. ORIGINALLY INTENDING TO SHOOT A SEMI-DOCUMENTARY SYMPA-
THETIC TO THE MUJAHIDEEN, HE FOUND HIS CAMERAS RECORDING
LOOTERS RATHER THAN SOLDIERS, GUN SMUGGLERS MORE THAN FIGHTERS.

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4. QURESHI BEGAN HIS ODYSSEY FROM PESHAWAR JUNE 20.

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AFTER MEETING THERE WITH LEADERS OF THE NIAF, WHO WERE PREPARED TO ALLOW HIM TO ACCOMPANY A GROUP OF THEIR MEN INTO AFGHANISTAN. THEY COULD NOT GUARANTEE ACTION, BUT DID PLAN AN ATTACK ON A TOWN CALLED MUKKUR.

5. FROM THE FORCE OF 800 WITH WHOM QURESHI SET OUT FROM KABUL (PHONETIC) ON JULY 15, THE GROUP DIMINISHED TO UNDER 100 BY JULY 29, THE DAY OF THE PLANNED ATTACK. QURESHI OBSERVED THAT DESERTIONS INCREASED IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THE NUMBER OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION DISTRIBUTED.

6. THE MUJAHIDEEN ARMS CONSISTED OF .303 AND KALASHNIKOV RIFLES, CHINESE-MADE MACHINE GUNS AND SAZOOKAS, A DUSHEKA ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN AND BOXES OF AMMUNITION MARKED WITH ARABIC WRITING. THE FIGHTERS ALSO HAD MAGNETIC HAND GRENADES FOR USE AGAINST TANKS. CONFIDENT OF THEIR WEAPONS' ABILITY TO DESTROY RUSSIAN TANKS AND MISS, THE MUJAHIDEEN WERE DOUBTFUL

OF THEIR USE AGAINST GUNSHIPS, WHICH THEY CLAIMED TO BE IMPREGNABLE. THEY ALSO FEARED A PARTICULAR BOMB CALLED A KNIFE BOMB -- A SPECIAL BOMB SURROUNDED BY STEEL SPIKES WHICH SCATTERED ON IMPACT.

7. THE MUJAHIDEEN REPORTED THAT RUSSIAN AND AFGHAN TROOPS STAYED INSIDE THEIR FORTS OR CAMPS, RESPONDING ONLY TO ACTUAL ATTACKS OR ATTEMPTS TO CLOSE THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY. THE GUERRILLAS HAD FREE MOVEMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE BUT REPORTED GOVERNMENT RETALIATION AGAINST VILLAGES OR TOWNS IDENTIFIED AS HAVING SUPPORTED AN ATTACK.

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8. BECAUSE THEY FEARED RETALIATION, VILLAGERS WERE RELUCTANT TO HAVE THE GUERRILLA GROUPS SPEND MUCH TIME IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. EXCLUSION FROM VILLAGES CREATED A PROBLEM OF FOOD SUPPLY, WHICH IN TURN LED TO FIGHTS AMONG THE MORE THAN 40 IDENTIFIABLE GROUPS MAKING UP THE FORCE, NOMINALLY UNDER THE COMMAND OF ISMAEL GILANI (THE NEPHEW OF THE NIAF HEAD, SAYED GILANI) AND HIS SECOND IN COMMAND, ABID JAN ZAMFF (PHONETIC).

9. THE GUERRILLAS ALSO HAD INADEQUATE FUEL AND TRANSPORTATION. GASOLINE WAS \$12 A GALLON AND TRUCKS HARD TO COME BY.

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THE MUJAHIDEEN COMMANDEERED MOST OF THEIR CONVOY OF FOUR TRUCKS AND TWO TRUCK TROLLEYS, WHICH THEY USED IN A PIGGY-BACK SYSTEM TO TRANSPORT THE MEN. THEY WOULD CARRY AS MANY MEN AS POSSIBLE TO A POINT 70 MILES AWAY AND WOULD RETURN FOR THE REST. THE TRUCKS WERE PLAGUED WITH MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS AND TAMPERING BY THE OWNERS OR DRIVERS WHO WERE FORCED TO ACCOMPANY THEIR VEHICLES. QURESHI REPORTED THE SPARK PLUG COVERS BEING REMOVED ON AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS OF REPORTED BREAKDOWNS.

UNQUOTE

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO KARACHI, PESHAWAR AUG. 11
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10. AFTER GURESHI LEFT PESHAWAR JUNE WHEN HE TRAVELLED TO
DERA ISMAEL KHAN, CROSSED THE BORDER AT KUNDAR, MET THE MAIN
GROUP AT KABUT (PHONETIC) JULY 15 AND HID IN THE ZARKHASAN
MOUNTAINS WHILE WAITING FOR THE ATTACK ON MUKKUR JULY 29.
ON THE WAY HE AND HIS GROUP HAD TO PAY TAX AS THEY TRAVELLED
THROUGH AREAS CONTROLLED BY RIVAL GROUPS. IN THE ZARKHASAN
MOUNTAINS THE GROUP MET WITH THE HEZBI ISLAMI FORCES. GURESHI'S
ORIGINAL CHOICE FOR FILMING, BUT THE \$500 A DAY THE HEZBI
ISLAMI DEMANDED WAS OUTSIDE THE \$20,000 BUDGET HE HAD. NEVER-
THELESS, HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE HEZBI'S LEADERSHIP, EDUCA-
TION AND YOUTH. ALTHOUGH THE HEZBI REFUSED TO JOIN THE NIAF
ATTACK, THEY OFFERED TO PERFORM DIVERSIONARY RAIDS.

11. THE NIAF'S ATTACK DID NOT TAKE PLACE. THE FORCES SPLIT
INTO TWO -- ONE TO ATTACK MUKKUR FROM THE NORTH, THE OTHER
TO ATTACK FROM THE SOUTH. THE GROUP ATTACKING FROM THE NORTH
WAS SPOTTED IN THE EARLY MORNING OF JULY 29 AND HEAVILY SHELLED
AND SCATTERED. MORE THAN LIKELY, THE ATTACK WOULD NOT HAVE

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TAKEN PLACE AT ALL BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY DESERTIONS BY THAT DAY.

12. GURESHI, A KENYAN-BORN PAKISTAN CITIZEN ON A BRITISH

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PASSPORT AND A VETERAN REPORTER OF GUERRILLA CONFLICTS IN AFRICA (CBS NEWS CAMERAMAN 1972-73 IN TANZANIA) WAS SINGULARLY UNIMPRESSED BY THE EXPERIENCE. HE CLAIMS THAT RUSSIAN CASUALTIES CAME FROM AFGHAN ARMY FORCES REBELLING AND DESERTING AND NOT FROM THE CALIBER OF GUERRILLAS HE CAME ACROSS.

13. HE HOPES HIS MOVIE, SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF A REPORTER WHO IS PLAYED BY A PROFESSIONAL ACTOR, WILL HAVE THE CONTROVERSIAL AND COMMERCIAL EFFECT OF "DEATH OF A PRINCESS." HE MENTIONED THIS MOVIE TIME AND AGAIN AS HIS MODEL AND INSPIRATION. IF QURESHI CAN COME TO TERMS WITH CBS, HE WILL HAVE HIS SHOW ON THE AIR BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

14. COMMENT: FROM QURESHI'S DESCRIPTION, WE WOULD EXPECT THE DOCUMENTARY TO DAMAGE THE REPUTATION OF THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE.

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